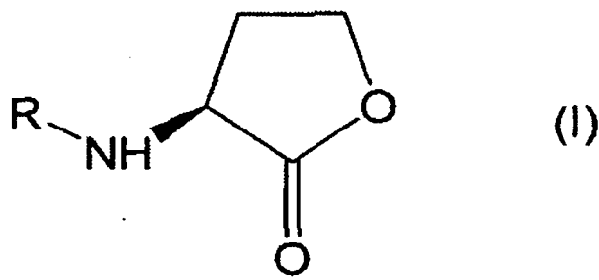


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

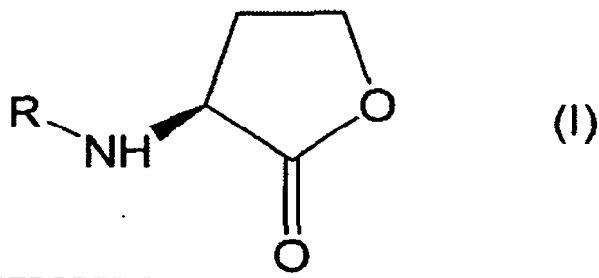
1. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting Akt, comprising using a compound represented by formula I:



wherein R is C₄₋₃₀ linear or branched acyl, which may be substituted.

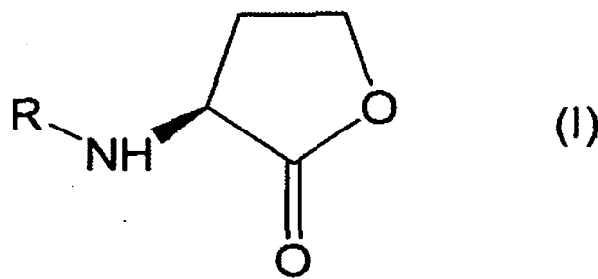
2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein R is C₄₋₃₀ linear or branched acyl having oxo at position 3.

3. (Withdrawn) A method of inducing apoptosis in cells, comprising using a compound represented by formula I:



wherein R is as defined above.

4. (Currently amended) A method of screening for a substance ~~inhibiting~~ that inhibits acylated homoserine lactone, comprising (i) culturing animal cells with a test substance in the presence of acylated homoserine lactone represented by formula I:



wherein R is ~~as defined above~~ C₄₋₃₀ linear or branched acyl, which may be substituted;[[, and]]

(ii) detecting inhibition of Akt activity or inhibition of the survival signaling pathway in which Akt is involved in the cells; and (iii) identifying the substance as one that inhibits acylated homoserine lactone.

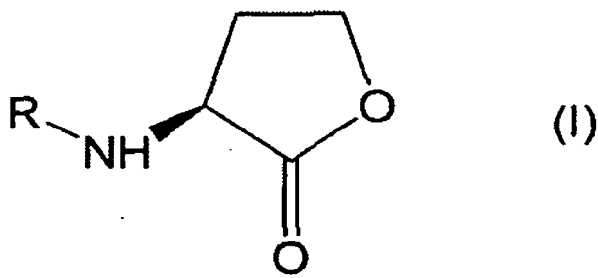
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein inhibition of Akt activity ~~the survival signaling pathway in which Akt is involved~~ is detected by detecting apoptosis.

6. (Withdrawn) A substance inhibiting acylated homoserine lactone, which is identified by the screening method of claim 4.

7. (Withdrawn) An acylated homoserine lactone inhibitor, which is identified by the screening method of claim 4.

8. (Withdrawn) A kit for using in the screening method of claim 4, comprising the following elements:

a) an acylated homoserine lactone represented by formula I:



wherein R is as defined above,